

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**The Pending Claims*

Claims 1-18 are pending currently and are directed to a flameproof moulding composition and a method of producing a moulded article therefrom. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 12 and 18 have been amended to recite that the moulding composition consists essentially of the components recited in the pending claims, rather than comprises such components. This amendment is supported by the specification in, e.g., Examples 1 and 2. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-13 stand again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kleiner et al. (i.e., U.S. 5,773,556) in view of Koch et al. (i.e., U.S. 5,071,924).

The Obviousness Rejection

The obviousness rejection is respectfully traversed and, in any event, is believed moot in view of the amendments to the claims. Kleiner et al. and Koch et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the invention recited by the pending claims as amended.

Koch et al. is directed to thermoplastic molding materials based on a blend of polyamides, which optionally contain a flameproofing agent (e.g., red phosphorus). Specifically Koch et al. teaches that the materials contain as essential components (A) a partly aromatic amide copolymer consisting essentially of units derived from terephthalic acid and hexamethylenediamine, units derived from caprolactam, and units derived from adipic acid and hexamethylenediamine and (B) partly crystalline thermoplastic polyamide which differs from (A). See Koch et al., at, e.g., Abstract; col. 1, ll. 5-25.

Kleiner et al. is directed to a polyamide (e.g., nylon 6 or nylon 66) molding compositions comprising calcium and aluminum salts of phosphinic or diphosphinic acids as

flame retardants. Nothing in Kleiner et al. teaches or suggests that the moulding composition can comprise a semi-aromatic, partially crystalline polyamide.

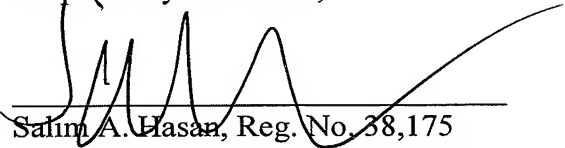
Neither Kleiner et al. nor Koch et al. teaches or suggests a moulding composition *consisting essentially of* (a) 30 - 80% by weight of a semi-aromatic, partially crystalline polyamide, (b) 1-30% by weight of a flame retardant, containing a phosphinic acid salt of formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic acid salt of formula (II) and/or polymers thereof, (c) 5-60% by weight of a fibre- or particle-like filler or mixtures thereof, and (d) 0.05-10% by weight additives as recited by the pending claims. To the contrary, Kleiner et al. teaches the use of non-aromatic polyamides (e.g., nylon 6, nylon 66) and Koch et al. teaches the use of a specific blend of polyamides. Thus both Kleiner et al. and Koch et al. teach away from the invention recited in the pending claims.

Since Kleiner et al. and Koch et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element of the pending claims, Applicants submit that the obviousness rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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